

REMARKS

Claims 7 to 12 are pending in the application. Claims 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto). Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto) in view of EP 1 093 980 (Staines et al.). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto) in view of DE 296 01 143 (Meckenstock).

Claims 13 to 20 added. Support is found at [0025] to [0028] for example.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto).

As WO 02/47961 was not published in the English language but has also been published as US 2004/0021342, Applicants are responding to this Office Action as based on US 2004/0021342 accordingly.

Fujimoto “relates to a car body hood panel structure that excels in the head impact resistance for protecting a pedestrian and is made of a metal material such as aluminum alloy, steel excellent in the bending rigidity, the torsional rigidity, and the like” (see, e.g. Fujimoto, paragraph [0001]).

The Fujimoto structures are corrugated beads 2a with a height of between 10 and 60 mm. See [0097] and [0100]. They are formed by press-molding. See [0047].

Claim 7 recites: “An engine hood for a motor vehicle having a deformable head impact zone to protect pedestrians in the event of a collision with the motor vehicle, the engine hood comprising:

an outer shell formed by a paneling of a body of the vehicle;
at least one inner shell disposed below the outer shell and connected to the outer shell, the inner shell having a stiffening region, wherein the stiffening region includes a vaulted structure including local folding of a material of the inner shell so as to insignificantly increase the surface area of the material.”

It is respectfully submitted that Fujimoto does not teach or disclose “wherein the stiffening region includes a vaulted structure including local folding of a material of the inner shell so as to insignificantly increase the surface area of the material” as claimed in claim 7 of the present invention. In Fujimoto, “[t]here is provided a plurality of corrugated beads” (see, e.g. Fujimoto, paragraph [0097]), which are selected to have a large corrugation height, up to 6cm or over 2 inches. See [0100]. These beads do not form a vaulted structure, which is formed in a continuous process as described in [0008] and [0012] of the present application. In addition, the conventionally sized beads of Fujimoto, made by press molding, significantly increases the surface area of the material and does not leave much room for effective clear height, as discussed in the present application at [0028] for example. In addition, Fujimoto also does not show a local folding as defined by the present application and claim 7, but rather press plasticization. See the present application at [0008].

Withdrawal of the rejections to claim 7 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) therefore is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto) in view of EP 1 093 980 (Staines et al.). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 02/47961 (Fujimoto) in view of DE 296 01 143 (Meckenstock).

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) therefore is respectfully requested.

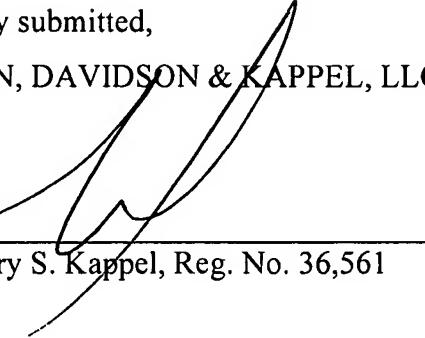
New Claims

New claims 13 to 20 recite features not believed found in the Fujimoto.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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